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PHOTOEXCITATIONS IN POLYACETYLENE (U)  
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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
1. REPORT NUMBER Technical Report No. 81-12	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO. ADA107831	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER
4. TITLE (and Subtitle) Photoexcitations in Polyacetylene	5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED Interim Technical Report	6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER
7. AUTHOR(s) L. Lauchlan, S. Etemad, T.-C. Chung*, A. J. Heeger and Alan G. MacDiarmid*	8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s) N00014-81-K-0648	9. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS NR-356-602-4-13-91
10. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS Department of Physics and Chemistry* University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA 19104	11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS Department of the Navy Office of Naval Research Arlington, VA 22217	12. REPORT DATE November 11, 1981
13. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS (if different from Controlling Office)	14. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) Unclassified	15. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Distribution unlimited; approved for public release.		
17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report) Accepted for publication in <u>Phys. Rev. B</u> .		
18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES 81 11 20 013		
19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) photoluminescence; photoconductivity; recombination luminescence; (CH) <sub>x</sub> ; interband absorption edge; excitation energies; Stokes shift; temperature dependence; isomerization; phototransport studies; quenching; photo- conductive response; soliton; soliton excitations; photogenerated carriers		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) The results of experimental studies of photoluminescence and photo- conductivity in <u>cis</u> - and <u>trans</u> -(CH) <sub>x</sub> are presented. For <u>cis</u> -(CH) <sub>x</sub> , we find recombination luminescence in the scattered light spectrum at 1.9eV, near the interband absorption edge. The luminescence turns on sharply for excitation energies greater than 2.05eV, implying a Stokes shift of 0.15eV. Studies of the temperature dependence (T ≥ 7K) show no loss of luminescence intensity even at temperatures as high as 300K. Isomerization of the same sample quenches the luminescence; we find no indication of luminescence near the interband absorp-		

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S/N 0102-LF-014-6601

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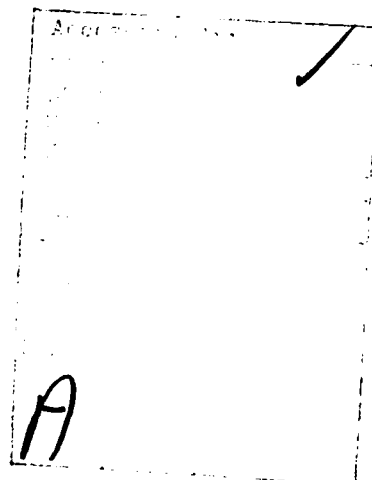
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20. Absorption edge of trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> even at temperatures as low as 7K. These results are discussed in the context<sup>x</sup> of parallel phototransport studies. The quenching of the luminescence upon cis-trans isomerization is concurrent with the appearance of a large photoconductive response. The photoconductivity in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> has a threshold at 1.0eV, well below the interband absorption edge at 1.5eV, implying the presence of states deep inside the gap. The observation of luminescence in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub>, but not in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub>; and the observation of photoconductivity in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub>, but not in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> provide confirmation of the proposal that solitons are the photogenerated carriers. <sup>x</sup>In trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub>, the degenerate ground state leads to free soliton excitations, absence of band edge luminescence, and photoconductivity. In cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> the non-degenerate ground state leads to confinement of the photogenerated carriers, absence of photoconductivity, and to the observed recombination luminescence.



OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH  
Contract No. N00014-81-K-0648  
Task No. 356-602  
TECHNICAL REPORT NO. 81-12

Photoexcitations in Polyacetylene

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Accepted for publication

in

Phys. Rev. B.

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November 11, 1981

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## PHOTOEXCITATIONS IN POLYACETYLENE

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### Abstract

The results of experimental studies of photoluminescence and photoconductivity in cis- and trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> are presented. For cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub>, we find recombination luminescence in the scattered light spectrum at 1.7 eV, near the interband absorption edge. The luminescence turns on sharply for excitation energies greater than 2.05 eV, implying a Stokes shift of 0.15 eV. Studies of the temperature dependence ( $T \geq 7$  K) show no loss of luminescence intensity even at temperatures as high as 300 K. Isomerization of the same sample quenches the luminescence; we find no indication of luminescence near the interband absorption edge of trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> even at temperatures as low as 7 K. These results are discussed in the context of parallel phototransport studies. The quenching of the luminescence upon cis-trans isomerization is concurrent with the appearance of a large photoconductive response. The photoconductivity in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> has a threshold at 1.0 eV, well below the interband absorption edge at 1.5 eV, implying the presence of states deep inside

the gap. The observation of luminescence in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub>, but not in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub>; and the observation of photoconductivity in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub>, but not in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> provide confirmation of the proposal that solitons are the photogenerated carriers. In trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub>, the degenerate ground state leads to free soliton excitations, absence of band edge luminescence, and photoconductivity. In cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> the non-degenerate ground state leads to confinement of the photogenerated carriers, absence of photoconductivity, and to the observed recombination luminescence.

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## I. Introduction

The linear chain polymer, polyacetylene,  $(\text{CH})_x$ , is of general interest since the structure of the trans- $(\text{CH})_x$  polymer chain exhibits a broken symmetry and has a two-fold degenerate ground state. As a result, one expects soliton-like excitations, in the form of bond alternation domain walls, connecting the two degenerate phases. The properties of solitons in  $(\text{CH})_x$  have been explored theoretically in several recent papers, which show that the coupling of these conformational excitations to the  $\pi$ -electrons leads to unusual electrical and magnetic properties.<sup>1-4</sup> The possibility of experimental studies of such solitons in polyacetylene, therefore, represents a unique opportunity to explore nonlinear phenomena in condensed matter physics.

Previous studies have focused on the magnetic properties of the neutral soliton defects in undoped trans- $(\text{CH})_x$  and on the question of whether the doping proceeds via the soliton mechanism.<sup>1</sup> The high mobility of the magnetic defects together with the remarkable anisotropy in the spin diffusion constant have demonstrated that the neutral magnetic species which appear in trans- $(\text{CH})_x$  upon isomerization are bond-alternation domain walls, or neutral solitons.<sup>5-7</sup> Moreover, analysis of the experimentally determined infrared,<sup>8-10</sup> optical<sup>11</sup> and magnetic<sup>12-14</sup> properties of trans- $(\text{CH})_x$  at dilute doping levels have provided detailed evidence of the generation of charged solitons through doping, and of the important role of charged solitons in determining the physics and chemistry of polyacetylene.

Interest in photo-excitation studies of  $(\text{CH})_x$  has been stimulated by the recent calculations of Su and Schrieffer,<sup>15</sup> who considered direct injection of an e-h pair and studied the time evolution of the system. Their principal result was the conclusion that in trans- $(\text{CH})_x$  a photo-injected e-h pair evolves to a soliton-antisoliton pair in a time of order the reciprocal of an optical phonon frequency. This is the central experimental question addressed in the present paper: Are solitons photogenerated in polyacetylene?

The proposed photogeneration of charged solitons has clear implications which can be checked through studies of photoluminescence and photoconductivity.<sup>16,17</sup> We therefore present and discuss in this paper the experimental results obtained with these two complementary techniques in cis- and trans- $(\text{CH})_x$ . In the scattered light spectrum from cis- $(\text{CH})_x$ , we find a relatively broad luminescence structure peaking at 1.9 eV, near the interband absorption edge, together with a series of multiple order Raman lines. Through measurements of the excitation spectrum, we have found that the luminescence turns on sharply for excitation energies greater than 2.05 eV, implying a Stokes shift of 0.15 eV. The main peak in the luminescence structure at 1.9 eV has a half-width of about 0.1 eV and a Lorentzian energy profile. The luminescence intensity is essentially independent of temperature from 7 K to room temperature. Isomerization of the same sample to trans- $(\text{CH})_x$  quenches the luminescence; we find



no indication of luminescence near the interband absorption edge of trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> even at temperatures as low as 7 K. These luminescence data are discussed in the context of parallel photo-transport studies. We find that the quenching of the luminescence upon cis-trans isomerization is concurrent with the appearance of a large photoconductive response. The photoconductivity in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> has a threshold at 1.0 eV, well below the interband absorption edge at 1.5 eV, implying the presence of states deep inside the gap.

The observation of luminescence in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> but not in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub>, and the observation of photoconductivity in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> but not in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> provide confirmation of the proposal that solitons are the photogenerated carriers. In trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub>, the degenerate ground state leads to free soliton excitations, absence of the band edge luminescence and photoconductivity. In cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> the non-degenerate ground state leads to confinement of the photogenerated carriers, absence of photoconductivity, and to the observed recombination luminescence.

## II. Experimental Results

### a. Photoluminescence of cis and trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub>

For Raman and photoluminescence studies, thin (2-5 microns) films of polyacetylene were polymerized at <sup>18</sup>-78°C directly onto flat, aluminum substrates. These films were used in order to minimize laser heating and to prevent thermal isomerization of cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> during the course of the measurements. The temperature difference across a (CH)<sub>x</sub>

film of thickness  $\sim 5 \mu\text{m}$  is estimated to be less than one degree for a typical light flux of  $100 \text{ mW/cm}^2$ . In order to thermally anchor the polyacetylene films, the Al substrates were heat sunk with "Cry-Con" conductive grease to the cold tip of an Air Products Helitran liquid flow refrigerator. Using this configuration, substrate temperatures could be controlled from 7 K to 300 K.

Optical measurements employed a standard  $90^\circ$  scattering configuration. Raman and photoluminescence spectra were taken using a Spex 1401 double monochromator equipped with photon counting detection. In this study, excitation lines ( $4579 \text{ \AA}$  to  $6471 \text{ \AA}$ ) from either an Argon ion or a Krypton ion laser were used. In addition, a Rhodamine-6G dye laser was used for obtaining the excitation spectrum of the photoluminescence peak in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub>.

In Figure 1, we show the photoluminescence and the multiple overtone Raman structure from cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> obtained at 7 K using  $4880 \text{ \AA}$  (2.54 eV) laser line excitation. The fact that the emission is always centered at 1.9 eV, independent of excitation frequency, demonstrates that it is intrinsic photoluminescence of cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub>. The luminescence peak is re-plotted in Figure 2<sup>19</sup> and compared with the energy dependence of the absorption coefficient for cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub>,  $\alpha_c(\omega)$ . The peak energy is just below the steep increase in the absorption coefficient. We find that over the full temperature range studied (7 K to 300 K) the luminescence peak occurs at 1.9 eV with no observable shift in frequency.

The excitation spectrum (i. e. the intensity dependence of the photo-luminescence as a function of laser excitation frequency) is shown in Figure 3. Note that although the luminescence is centered at 1.9 eV, excitation frequencies above 2.05 eV are required to excite the luminescence. The energy difference between the excitation threshold (2.05 eV) and the energy of luminescence (1.9 eV) is interpreted as a Stokes shift, presumably arising from the formation of a lattice distortion around the photo-excited e-h pair. Above the relatively sharp excitation threshold, the luminescence intensity is essentially independent of excitation frequency up to the maximum energy available. As expected, the multiple Raman lines shift with the laser frequency.

The luminescence spectrum of cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> is replotted in Fig. 4, after subtracting the multiple order Raman lines from the results presented in Fig. 1. The solid curve on Fig. 4 is a fit of a Lorentzian lineshape to the luminescence peak. The Lorentzian (half-width at half maximum of .13 eV) is a good fit on the long wavelength side, but falls below the experimental curve above ~ 1.95 eV, suggesting a weak second peak centered near 2.0 eV. The dashed curve shows the effect of adding a second Lorentzian centered at 2.0 eV (half-width ≈ 0.04 eV) with a peak height of 7.0% of the main line. The long tails appear inconsistent with a Gaussian shape, and attempts to fit to a Gaussian lineshape were unsuccessful. The width of the main luminescence peak is essentially independent of temperature as shown on Fig. 5. A third weak luminescence appears to exist

near 2.2 eV (near  $\Delta\nu \approx 2700 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  on Fig. 1). Due to the presence of the strong multiple order Raman lines, there is an uncertainty of about  $\pm 0.05 \text{ eV}$  in the estimated positions of the two weak secondary maxima.

The measured luminescence intensity shows relatively little temperature dependence, up to 150 K. At higher temperature, a decrease results from partial isomerization of the initially cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> film. We have monitored the cis/trans content with the principal Raman lines and normalized the luminescence intensity to the fractional cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> content in the film. The resulting temperature dependence of the luminescence intensity of cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> is shown on Figure 6. The results show no significant decrease in intensity even at temperatures as high as 300 K.

In the course of their extensive studies of Raman scattering from polyacetylene, Lichtmann et al.<sup>21</sup> also observed the 1.9 eV luminescence from cis-(CD)<sub>x</sub> and cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> at 77 K. Their results are equivalent to ours at 77 K. The results plotted in Figures 1 through 6 provide the first measurements of the excitation spectrum, the Stokes shift, and the temperature dependence of the intensity and width of the photoluminescence peak.

After completing the measurements on cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> the same film was isomerized by heating in vacuum at approximately 180°C for about 1 hour. Thermal isomerization to trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> quenches the luminescence peak as shown in Figure 7. There is no photoluminescence from trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> in

the vicinity of the steep rise in interband absorption; i. e. near 1.6 eV.

The intensity of any luminescence peak from trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> in the range of our measurements (1.4 eV to 2.5 eV) is less than that of the cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> peak at 1.9 eV by at least a factor of fifty.

b. Photoconductivity of <sup>16</sup>cis- and trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub>

The photoconductivity studies were carried out at room temperature on thin film samples (thickness of a few microns) polymerized directly on glass substrates. Experiments utilized primarily the surface cell configuration using ohmic contacts; similar results were obtained using sandwich cells. Note that the flat excitation spectrum for photoluminescence in combination with a frequency dependent absorption coefficient with magnitude greater than 10<sup>5</sup> implies that surface recombination is not of major importance.<sup>22</sup> Measurements were carried out in the range 0.6 - 3.0 eV using phase sensitive detection (13 Hz) of the voltage change across a resistor in series with the sample. Where necessary, corrections were made for transmitted light. The light to dark current ratio depended on sample treatment, doping and/or compensation, and varied from 10<sup>-8</sup> to 10<sup>-1</sup> at 2.0 eV with 10<sup>14</sup> photons/cm<sup>2</sup>-sec.

In Fig. 8 the logarithm of the photocurrent ( $I_{ph}$ ), normalized to the number of absorbed photons, is shown as a function of photon energy. Results obtained from different sample preparations show a large variation in the magnitude of the photoresponse below 1 eV. The inset in Fig. 8 shows a comparison of the same data (curve A) with results from three other samples of varying quality in order to point out the sample dependence of

the photocurrent spectrum. A distinct common feature, however, is the exponential rise above 1 eV seen clearly in Fig. 8. Our experience is that those films which showed significant response below 1 eV were of poorer quality as characterized by visual appearance. Moreover, compensation with ammonia decreased the low energy response converting the  $I_{ph}$  spectrum from curve D to curve A. Earlier results on compacted powders showed an increase in  $I_{ph}$  by only a factor of four near 1 eV compared with the two orders of magnitude increase indicated in Fig. 8.

Measurements of  $I_{ph}$  in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> were also attempted. Under similar conditions any photoresponse in samples of 80% cis-rich (CH)<sub>x</sub> was below the noise level of our experiment. The upper limit on  $I_{ph}$  in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> is more than three orders of magnitude smaller than  $I_{ph}$  in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub>. In situ isomerization of the same film resulted in the sizeable  $I_{ph}$  shown in Fig. 8.

The photocurrent spectrum for trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> is replotted in Figure 9 and compared with the energy dependence of the absorption coefficient for trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub>,  $\alpha_t^{19}(\omega)$ . In contrast to earlier suggestions<sup>24</sup>, we note that the photoconductivity sets on well below the interband absorption, suggesting the presence of states deep inside the gap. This is clearly shown in the inset to Fig. 9 where the photoresponse and absorption are compared on a linear scale. The threshold for the generation of free carriers is better seen in the logarithmic plot of  $I_{ph}$  versus photon energy (Fig. 9). The absence of structure in  $\alpha_t^{19}(\omega)$  at the onset of  $I_{ph}$  implies a low quantum

efficiency at threshold. The free carrier generation efficiency rises exponentially above the threshold and changes to a slow increase above the onset of the interband transition.

The photoconductivity results do not result from bolometric effects. The observation (Fig. 9) that  $I_{ph}$  increases by nearly two orders of magnitude in the frequency interval where  $\alpha_t$  has negligible energy dependence rules out heating effects on the  $I_{ph}$  threshold. Furthermore, the observation that the light to dark current ratio can be varied by more than five orders of magnitude by doping and/or compensation clearly demonstrates that  $I_{ph}$  does not scale with the dark conductivity as would be expected from absorption induced heating (at constant voltage). For example after compensation with ammonia, the photoconductivity of trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> was readily detected even though the dark conductivity decreased by four orders of magnitude. At this point, the dark resistance was comparable to that of the cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> sample where no signal was observed. Finally, we note that the energy dependence of the photocurrent (Fig. 9) closely resembles the photovoltaic quantum efficiency obtained from junction studies<sup>25, 26</sup> with trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub>. Thus, the photoresponse shown in Fig. 9 is genuine photoconductivity resulting from photogenerated carriers in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub>.

In the course of these studies, photoluminescence and Raman studies were carried out on about five samples, and photoconductivity studies were done on more than twenty samples. The luminescence results showed excellent reproducibility. The absolute magnitude of the

photoconductivity and the relative size of the photoresponse below 1.0 eV varied from sample to sample; however, the principal spectral features and overall shape of the response curve were quite reproducible.

### III. Discussion of the Experimental Results

The identification of the photogenerated carriers is of fundamental importance: Are they electron-hole pairs or soliton-antisoliton pairs?

As indicated above, Su and Schrieffer<sup>15</sup> have shown that in the presence of an e-h pair the lattice is unstable and (in a time of the order of the reciprocal of an optical phonon frequency) distorts to form a soliton-antisoliton pair. Thus, whatever the initial process, soliton formation is expected to occur in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> in a time of order of  $10^{-13}$  seconds.

In traditional semiconductors, photoconductivity and recombination luminescence are intimately related, and both are observed after photo-excitation. Photoconductivity indicates the presence of free carriers generated by the absorbed photons. Although the subsequent recombination of these photogenerated carriers can take place either radiatively or non-radiatively, recombination luminescence is commonly observed, at least at low temperatures. The fundamental differences between such traditional data and those obtained from polyacetylene can be seen by comparison of the (CH)<sub>x</sub> results with results obtained from cadmium sulfide (CdS). The luminescence and multiple order Raman scattering data from CdS<sup>27</sup> are similar to the results obtained from cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub>.



However, in CdS, a strong photoconductive response is observed for photon energies just above the band edge,<sup>28</sup> whereas in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> significant photogeneration of free carriers is not observed even for photon energies 1 eV above the band edge. Isomerization to trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> quenches the luminescence at all temperatures, but turns on the photoconductivity. In neither isomer is the traditional combination of effects observed. These unique experimental results, therefore, lead us to consider the proposed photogeneration of solitons in more detail.

A schematic diagram of the photogeneration of a charged soliton-antisoliton pair in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> is shown in Fig. 10. The incident photon (for  $\hbar\omega \geq 2\Delta$ ) generates an e-h pair within the rigid lattice (Fig. 10a). The system rapidly evolves to a charged soliton pair (Fig. 10b) as shown by Su and Schrieffer.<sup>15</sup> After a time of order  $10^{-13}$  sec, their results imply the presence of two kinks separating degenerate regions. Because of the precise degeneracy of the A and B phases, the two charged solitons are free to move in an applied electric field and contribute to the photoconductivity.

The topological degeneracy in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> is not present in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub>, so that soliton photogeneration would not lead to photoconductivity in the cis-isomer. Since the cis-transoid configuration (Fig. 11a) has a lower energy than the trans-cisoid configuration (Fig. 11b), domain walls would separate non-degenerate regions (Fig. 11c). Although neither of the limiting forms of Fig. 11a and 11b is literally correct, we may think of the ground state as essentially equivalent to Fig. 11a, with the structure

of Fig. 11b being slightly higher in energy. Consider then the photoexcitation of a charged soliton-antisoliton pair as shown schematically in Fig. 11c.

The energy required is

$$E_{\text{tot}} = 2E_s + n \Delta E_o.$$

where  $E_s$  is the energy for creation of a single soliton (analogous to the soliton creation energy in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub>,  $n$  is the number of CH monomers separating the two kinks, and  $\Delta E_o$  is the energy difference between the two configurations (Fig. 11a and 11b), estimated to be a few hundredths of an eV per C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>. Thus, as they begin to form, the two solitons would be "confined", or bound into a polaron-like entity; the farther apart, the greater the energy. <sup>16,17,29</sup> As a result, one expects the photogenerated pair to quickly recombine.

The photoluminescence results thus provide the first confirmation of the soliton photogeneration ideas. The absence of band edge luminescence in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> even at the lowest temperatures is consistent with the proposed photogeneration of charged soliton-antisoliton pairs. In this case, band edge luminescence cannot occur since there are no electrons and holes. The charged soliton pair consists of two kinks with associated mid-gap states (Fig. 10b). Final recombination of the soliton pair could occur either radiatively (with a large Stokes shift to approximately mid-gap) or non-radiatively through charge transfer to form two neutral kinks, which subsequently relax to the ground state by multiphonon emission. In either case, there would be no band edge luminescence.

The luminescence results in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> as shown in Figs. 1-6 provide some insight into the dynamics of system. The energy given off to phonons during the formation of the lattice distortion would lead to a Stokes shift of the luminescence relative to the minimum energy needed to make a free e-h pair. As indicated in Section II, a Stokes shift of  $\Delta E_s = 0.15$  eV is observed relative to the onset of photoexcitation at 2.05 eV. The magnitude of  $\Delta E_s$  is, however, much less than that expected for the formation of either two free solitons or two free polarons. In the case of two free solitons, the corresponding electronic levels would be near mid-gap with the luminescence energy going to zero in the limit of  $\Delta E_0$  being small. For a well-separated electron polaron and hole polaron,<sup>17, 30</sup> the corresponding luminescence energy would be

$$\hbar\omega_l = 2\Delta(1 - 1/\sqrt{2}) \approx 0.6\Delta$$

with an implied Stokes shift of  $2\Delta/\sqrt{2}$ . The smaller experimental value of  $\Delta E_s$  may result from recombination before the soliton or polaron lattice distortion is fully formed, or from the confinement energy,  $n\Delta E_0$ . In this context, the relatively broad Lorentzian shape of the main emission (see Fig. 4) may result from lifetime broadening. The implied luminescence lifetime would be of the order of the reciprocal of an optical phonon frequency; i. e., comparable to the time scale for soliton formation.

The suggestion that confinement of photogenerated carriers plays an important role in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> may provide an explanation for the unusual

multiple overtones observed in the Raman spectra.<sup>21</sup> The implied anharmonic "ringing" of the lattice excitations is indicative of strong electron-phonon coupling. Note that whereas the confinement in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> is intrinsic and due to the absence of a degenerate ground state, confinement can be simulated in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> by boundaries.<sup>31</sup> Lichtmann et al.<sup>31</sup> have recently reported band edge luminescence (near 1.5 eV) and multiple overtones of the trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> Raman lines from partially isomerized samples consisting of short segments of trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> imbedded in the cis-isomer. Thus the intense multiple Raman overtones and the band edge luminescence appear to have a common origin, and they are observed under conditions where the photogenerated carriers are unable to separate. A theoretical analysis of Raman scattering and luminescence for the case of a nearly degenerate ground state is required for further understanding of this rich class of phenomena.

The photoconductivity results provide the second confirmation of soliton photogeneration. The absence of photoconductivity in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> is consistent with the proposed confinement of photogenerated carriers, whereas the observation of photoconductivity in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> indicates the generation of free carriers. The minimum energy required for photogeneration of free positive and negative soliton pairs is  $2(2\Delta/\pi) < 2\Delta$ .<sup>3,17</sup> Since the direct photogeneration of a soliton pair requires a significant lattice distortion simultaneous with the electronic transition, the quantum efficiency near threshold is expected to be small and to increase exponentially as  $\hbar\omega$ <sup>17</sup>

approaches  $2\Delta$ , in a manner similar to an Urbach tail. <sup>32</sup> For  $\hbar\omega \approx 2\Delta$ , the interband transition has a quantum efficiency of order unity for direct e-h pair production so that the overall soliton-antisoliton photogeneration process should be only a weak function of energy. The experimental results are in agreement;  $I_{ph}$  rises rapidly and exponentially above  $1 \text{ eV} \approx 2(2\Delta/\pi)$  and more slowly above  $1.5 \text{ eV} \approx 2\Delta$ . Thus the spectral dependence of  $I_{ph}$  for trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> is consistent with photogeneration of charged soliton-antisoliton pairs. The knee in  $I_{ph}$  at  $\hbar\omega \approx 2\Delta$ , the onset of interband absorption, must be contrasted with the sharp rise typically seen at that point in traditional semiconductors where electrons and/or holes are the photoinjected carriers. In the data of Fig. 9, the major increase in  $I_{ph}$  (a factor of  $10^2$ ) occurs in the experimental rise below the onset of interband absorption. The continued slow increase in both  $I_{ph}$  and the junction quantum efficiency above  $1.5 \text{ eV}$  (with no structure corresponding to  $c_t(x)$ ) <sup>33</sup> may indicate the importance of geminate recombination processes.

The much increased photoconductivity in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> with essentially identical peak absorption in the two isomers implies a major increase in total recombination lifetime upon isomerization. In fact, recent experiments have demonstrated a surprisingly long photoconductive decay time, <sup>34</sup> in excess of  $10^2$  seconds at room temperature after steady state illumination. Since this long decay is not thermally activated, <sup>34</sup> the long lifetime is not due to deep trapping; thus ruling out the conventional mechanism for

enhancement of photoconductivity in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> through deep traps acting as sensitizing centers.

Both the absence of band edge luminescence and the enhanced lifetime are expected in trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> if, in the presence of an e-h pair, the lattice is unstable and distorts to form a soliton-antisoliton pair. The distortion involved in the kink formation would necessarily quench the band edge luminescence. Moreover, the nonlinearity of the soliton dynamics<sup>35,15</sup> would tend to suppress the recombination of soliton-antisoliton pairs implying an enhanced net recombination lifetime.

Alternative explanations must be carefully considered. The observed band edge luminescence in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> (with a small Stokes shift) may simply result from conventional e-h pair recombination. However, our inability to observe photoconductivity in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> strongly suggests that the photo-generated carriers are bound and unable to contribute to the phototransport. Although this could result directly from Coulomb binding of the e-h pairs into neutral excitons, the nearly identical peak absorption coefficient and the small increase in the energy gap on going from trans- to cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> argue against significant differences in the strength of the effective Coulomb interaction in the two isomers. Moreover, the close quantitative agreement between theory and experiment obtained in the study of the soliton induced infrared active vibrational modes provides solid evidence of the basic

validity of the one-electron approach with Coulomb interactions playing only a minor role.<sup>9,10</sup> The fact that no photoconductivity is observed in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> even for incident photon energies as high as 3 eV would require an exciton binding energy in excess of 1 eV. Furthermore, the relatively flat excitation spectrum (Fig. 4) above threshold is not consistent with an exciton bound state near the band edge. Finally, the absence of a significant decrease in luminescence intensity even at temperatures as high as 300 K is not consistent with a simple bound state.

The non-radiative recombination of photoexcited e-h pairs in disordered semiconductors is usually found to be an activated process.<sup>22</sup> This arises primarily from the localized nature of the band edge (or gap) states from which the photoexcited electron must tunnel in order to escape radiative recombination. As a result, in such semiconductors the photoluminescence efficiency increases exponentially upon lowering the temperature. The fact that no luminescence is observed from trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> even at T = 7 K is therefore unusual and of special interest, particularly in the context of the temperature independent luminescence intensity in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub>.

The Stokes shifted luminescence spectrum together with the multiple order Raman lines indicate the importance of electron-phonon coupling in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub>. As a result, a lattice deformation is expected to accompany the photoexcited state. Strong electron-phonon coupling effects

are best described in terms of a configurational coordinate,  $q$ , which is a measure of the lattice distortion near the photoexcited carriers. The fact that the time scale of lattice distortion ( $\sim 10^{-13}$  sec) is much longer than that of the electronic transition ( $\sim 10^{-16}$  sec) dictates that for such a system the absorption edge is at a higher energy than the emission peak; i. e., a Stokes shift.<sup>22</sup> Since the variation of the excited state energy with respect to the shifted minimum is quadratic in  $q$ , the luminescence line shape becomes a Gaussian with a width which increases with the size of the Stokes shift. The observation of a broad Lorentzian line shape (see Fig. 4) with a small Stokes shift in cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> is, therefore, qualitatively different from the typical results obtained from luminescence studies of semiconductors.<sup>22</sup>

The experimental results can be more generally viewed as evidence for the generation of defects, either induced through isomerization or by photogeneration. Related phenomena are well-known in tetrahedrally bonded amorphous semiconductors.<sup>36, 37</sup> In such materials, defects containing a single non-bonding electron give rise to  $s = \frac{1}{2}$  states (inside the gap) which tend to quench the photoluminescence. As a result, in such systems higher spin densities correlate with lower quantum efficiency for luminescence.<sup>37</sup> These defect states in glasses can be generated either in the synthesis or by intense laser light<sup>38</sup> at low temperatures. Solitons, the nonlinear excitations of polyacetylene, can be visualized in this context as specific



defects in a one-dimensional covalent semiconductor. The photogeneration of soliton-antisoliton pairs in  $(\text{CH})_x$  is initiated by the breaking of a  $\pi$ -bond, leading to the generation of two non-bonding states which can subsequently diffuse apart. The topology of the bond alternating one-dimensional conjugated polymer dictates that the presence of such a defect necessarily results in a change in sign of the bond alternation across the defect; i. e., a soliton.

#### IV. Conclusion

The principal conclusion obtained from the photoluminescence and photoconductivity measurements presented in this paper is that the photo-generated carriers in polyacetylene are soliton-antisoliton pairs. In particular, the absence of band edge luminescence in trans-( $\text{CH}$ ) $_x$  and the absence of photoconductivity in cis-( $\text{CH}$ ) $_x$  are of prime importance. The experimental results are summarized in Table 1. Luminescence is observed from cis-( $\text{CH}$ ) $_x$ , but not from trans-( $\text{CH}$ ) $_x$ ; whereas photoconductivity is observed in trans-( $\text{CH}$ ) $_x$ , but not in cis-( $\text{CH}$ ) $_x$ . In trans-( $\text{CH}$ ) $_x$ , the degenerate ground state leads to free soliton excitations and photoconductivity. In cis-( $\text{CH}$ ) $_x$  the non-degenerate ground state leads to confinement of the photogenerated carriers, absence of photoconductivity, and to the observed recombination luminescence.

Previous studies have demonstrated that the novel electronic and magnetic results obtained from undoped and lightly doped polyacetylene can be understood in terms of the soliton model. The existence of the

two isomers of polyacetylene has now provided the conceptual and experimental basis for analysis of the photoexcitations in the undoped polymer in terms of photogenerated solitons.

Acknowledgement: We thank Prof. E. Burstein and Mr. G. W. Ritchie for generous cooperation in the use of the light scattering equipment needed to obtain the luminescence and Raman spectra presented in this paper. The dye laser was obtained from the Regional Laser Laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania; we thank Dr. G. Holtom and Mr. P. Davis for assistance. It is a pleasure to acknowledge stimulating and important discussions with Prof. J. R. Schrieffer, Dr. S. Brazovskii, and Dr. S. Kivelson. The luminescence and Raman studies were supported by the Army Research Office (DAAG29-81-K-0058). Support for the photoconductivity studies and the synthesis, doping, and materials preparation was obtained from DARPA/ONR on a grant monitored by the Office of Naval Research.

Table I: Summary of Principal Results

	<u>cis</u> -(CH) <sub>x</sub>	<u>trans</u> -(CH) <sub>x</sub>
Ground State	Non-degenerate	Degenerate by symmetry
Nonlinear excitation	Confinement	Stable free soliton-antisoliton pair
Band-edge luminescence	Yes	No
Photoconductivity	No	Yes

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Figure Captions:

- Figure 1:** Photoluminescence and multiple overtone Raman structure from cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> obtained at 7 K. The scattered light intensity is plotted as a function of frequency shift ( $\Delta\nu$ ) away from the 2.54 eV laser excitation. The luminescence peaks at 1.9 eV.
- Figure 2:** Comparison of the photoluminescence spectrum (---) and the interband absorption spectrum (solid curve) for cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub>.
- Figure 3:** Excitation spectrum for the luminescence from cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub>. The energy difference between the excitation threshold (2.05 eV) and the energy of luminescence (1.9 eV) is interpreted as a Stokes shift.
- Figure 4:** Replot of the luminescence spectrum of cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> after subtracting the multiple order Raman lines. The solid curve is a fit of a Lorentzian (half-width at half maximum of 0.13 eV). The shoulder on the high energy side suggests a weak second peak at 2.05 eV; the dashed curve shows the effect of adding a second Lorentzian to the fit (see text).
- Figure 5:** Temperature dependence of the photoluminescence linewidth; the full width at half-maximum is approximately 0.25 eV.
- Figure 6:** Temperature dependence of the luminescence intensity from cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub>. The results were corrected for in situ isomerization during the course of the measurements by monitoring the principal cis and trans Raman lines (see text).



Figure 7: Scattered light spectrum from trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> obtained at 7 K using 2.54 eV laser excitation. The intensity of any luminescence near the onset of interband absorption (1.5 - 1.6 eV) is less than that of the cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> peak (Fig. 1) by at least a factor of fifty. The broad background is the luminescence from the Al substrate due to the presence of pinholes in the thin (CH)<sub>x</sub> film.

Figure 8: Photocurrent vs photon energy for trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub>. The inset shows a comparison of the same data (curve A) with results from three other samples of varying quality. Generally, films which showed significant response below 1 eV were of poorer quality as characterized by visual appearance. Compensation with ammonia decreased the low energy response converting the I<sub>ph</sub> spectrum from curve D to curve A.

Figure 9: Comparison of the photocurrent (log I<sub>ph</sub>) and optical absorption coefficient (α) as a function of photon energy. Note the threshold of I<sub>ph</sub> near 1 eV, well below the onset of interband absorption. I<sub>ph</sub> and α are compared on a linear scale in the inset.

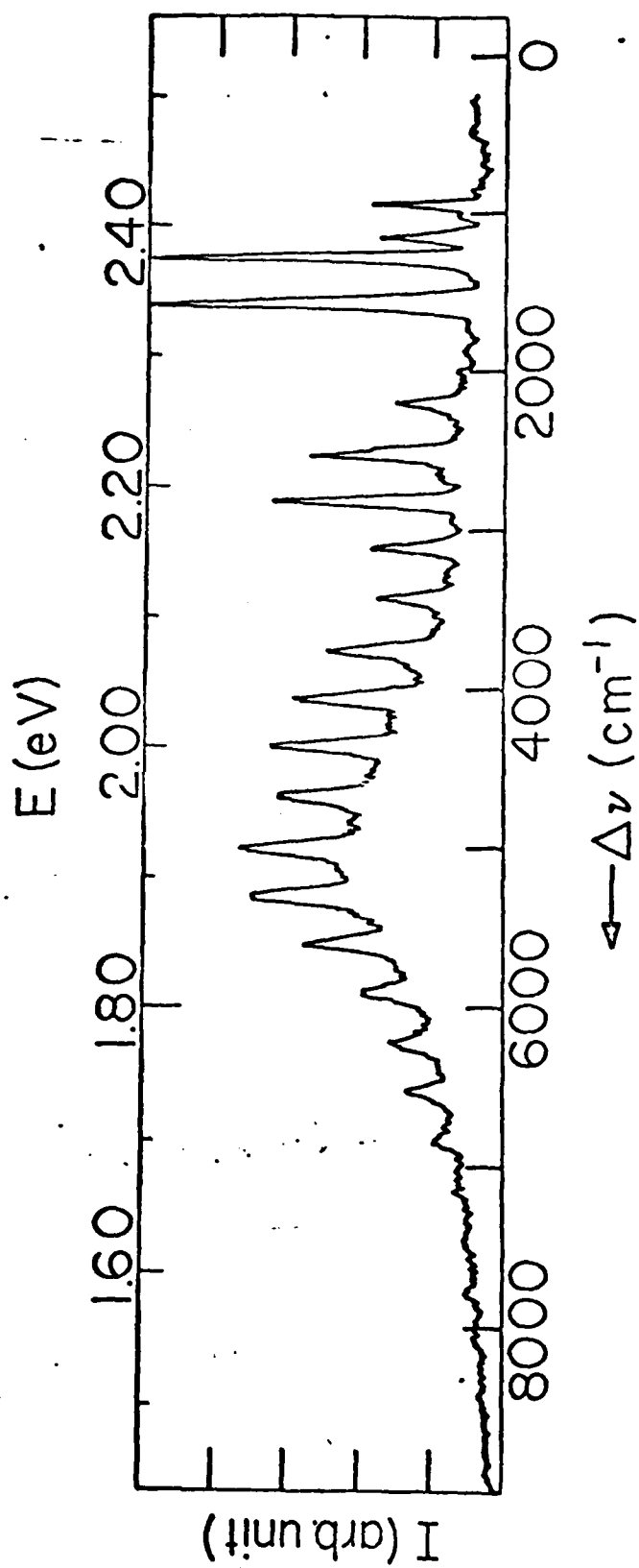
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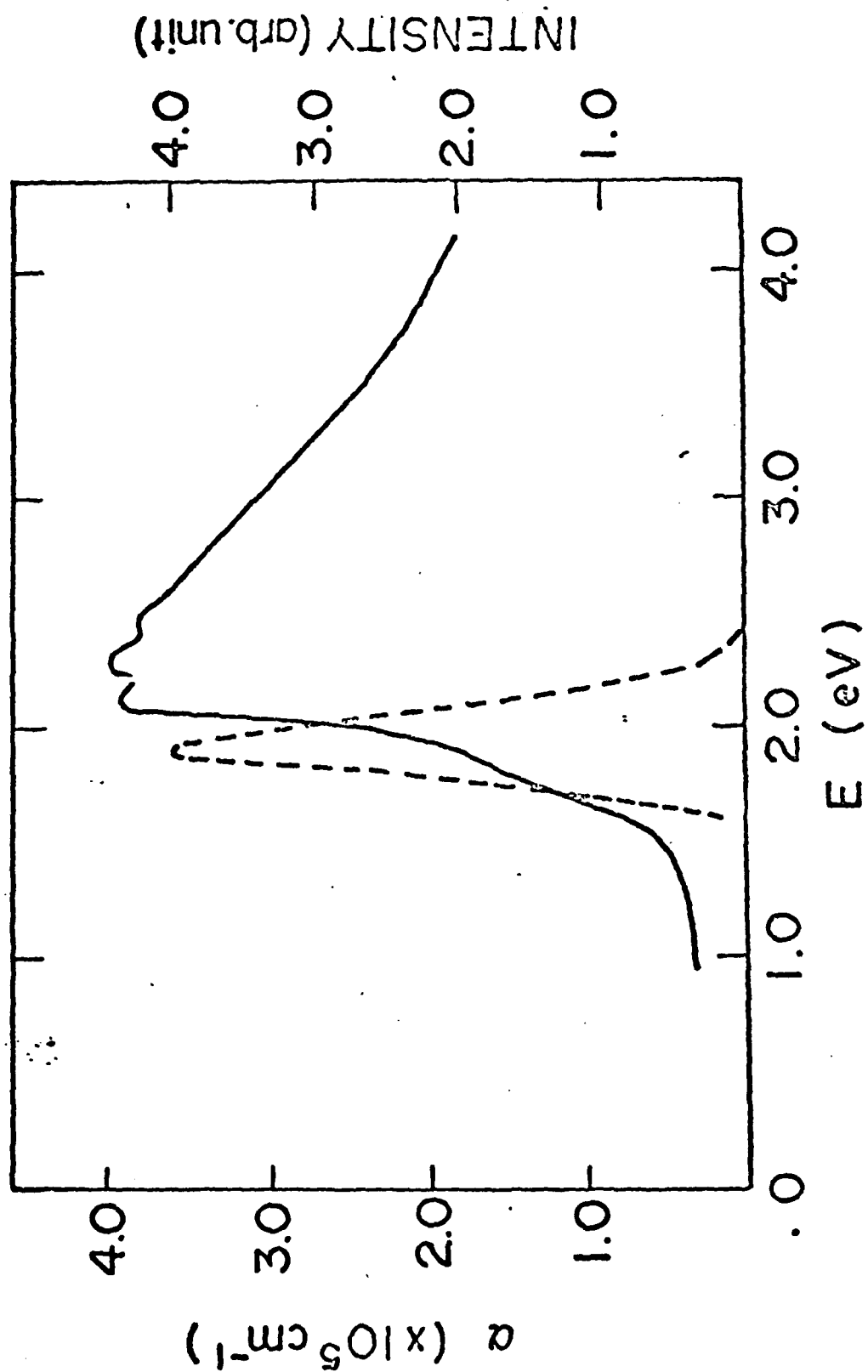
- a. Band diagram and chemical structure diagram for trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub>. The band diagram shows schematically the absorption of a photon and the creation of an e-h pair.
- b. A trans-(CH)<sub>x</sub> chain containing a charged soliton-antisoliton pair. Since regions A and B are degenerate, the solitons are free and can move apart with no cost in energy. The corresponding band diagram shows the mid-gap states associated

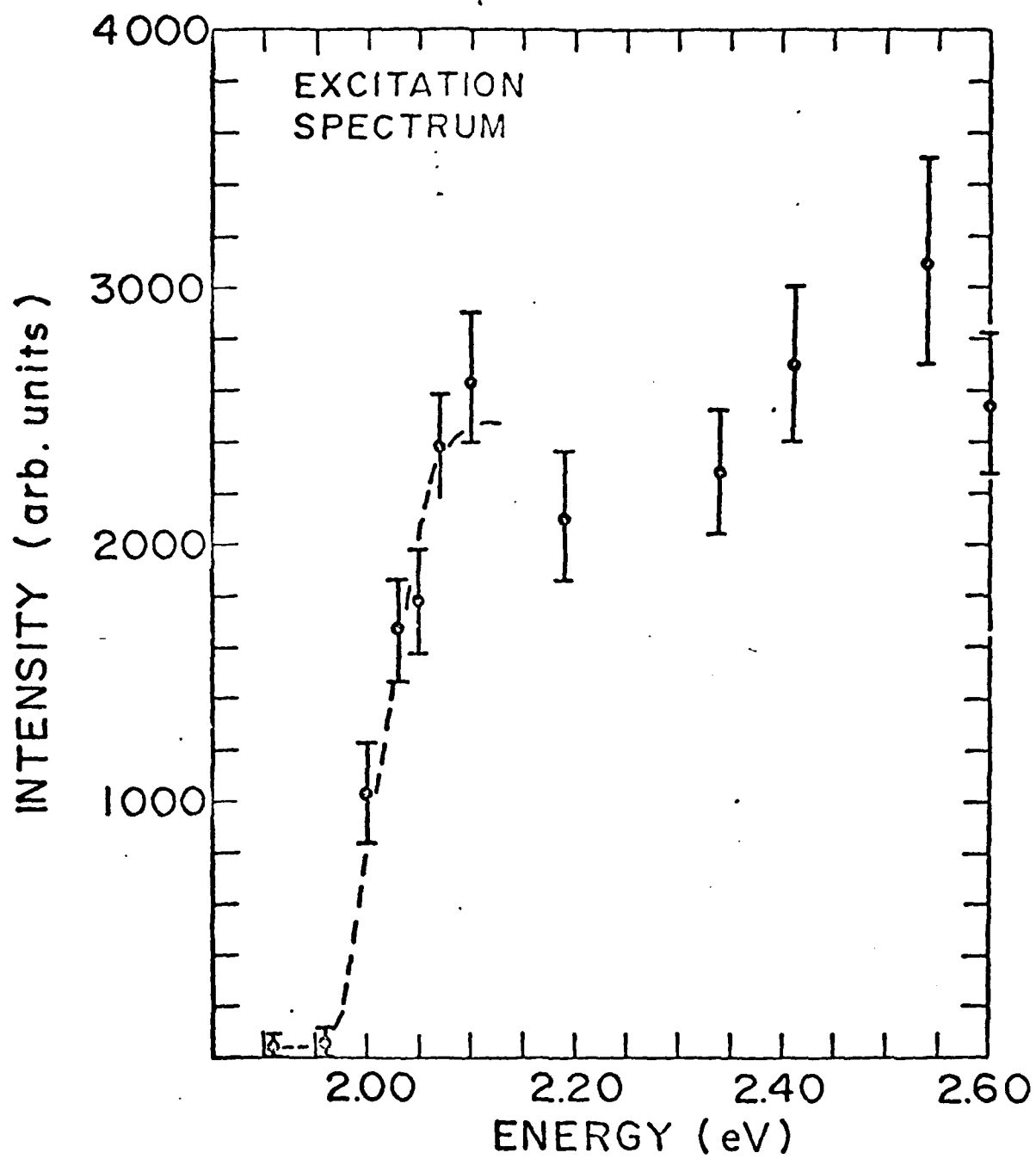
with the two solitons; one empty (+) and the other doubly occupied (-). The soliton deformations are shown as localized on a single site, whereas the deformation should be spread over about 15 lattice constants.

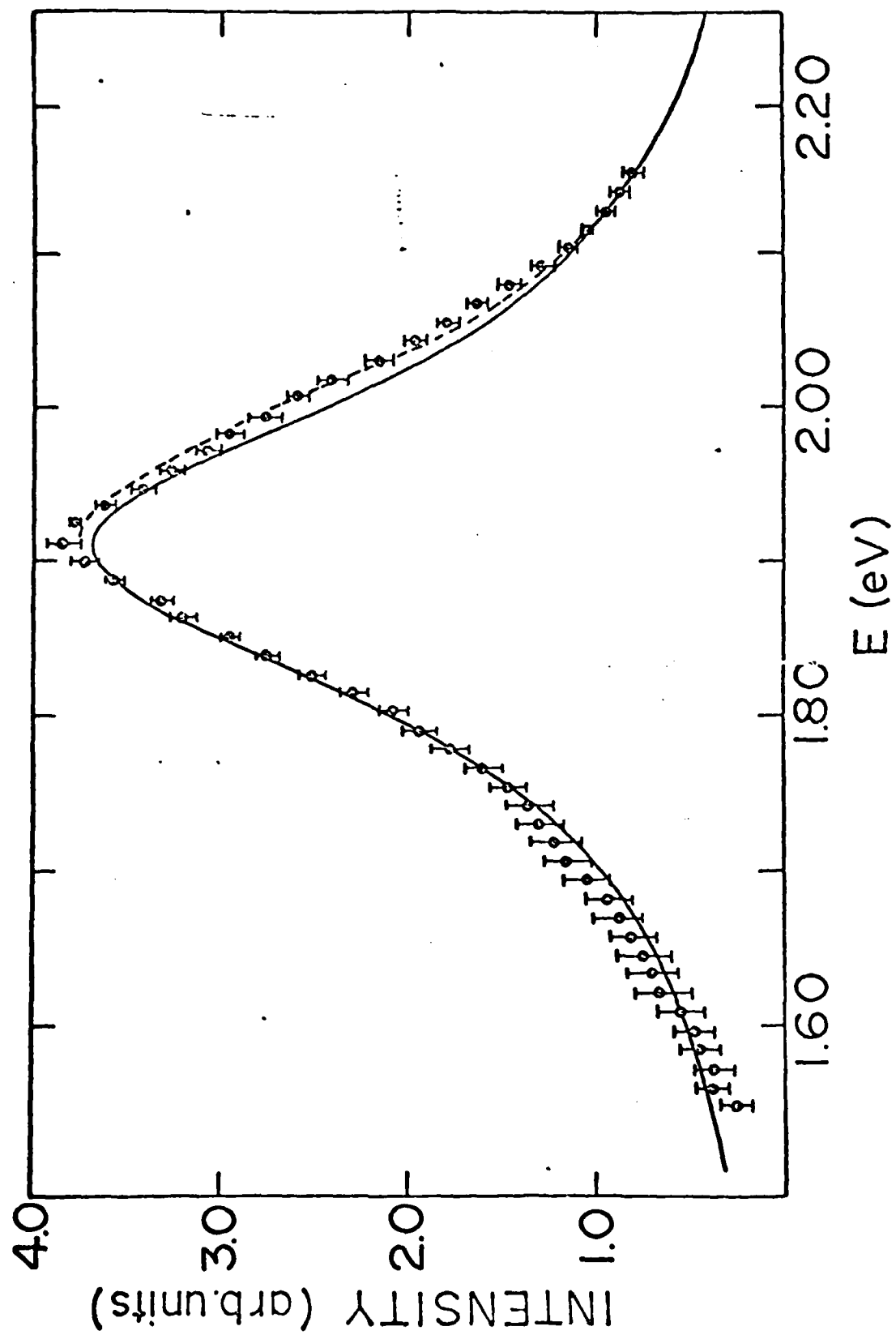
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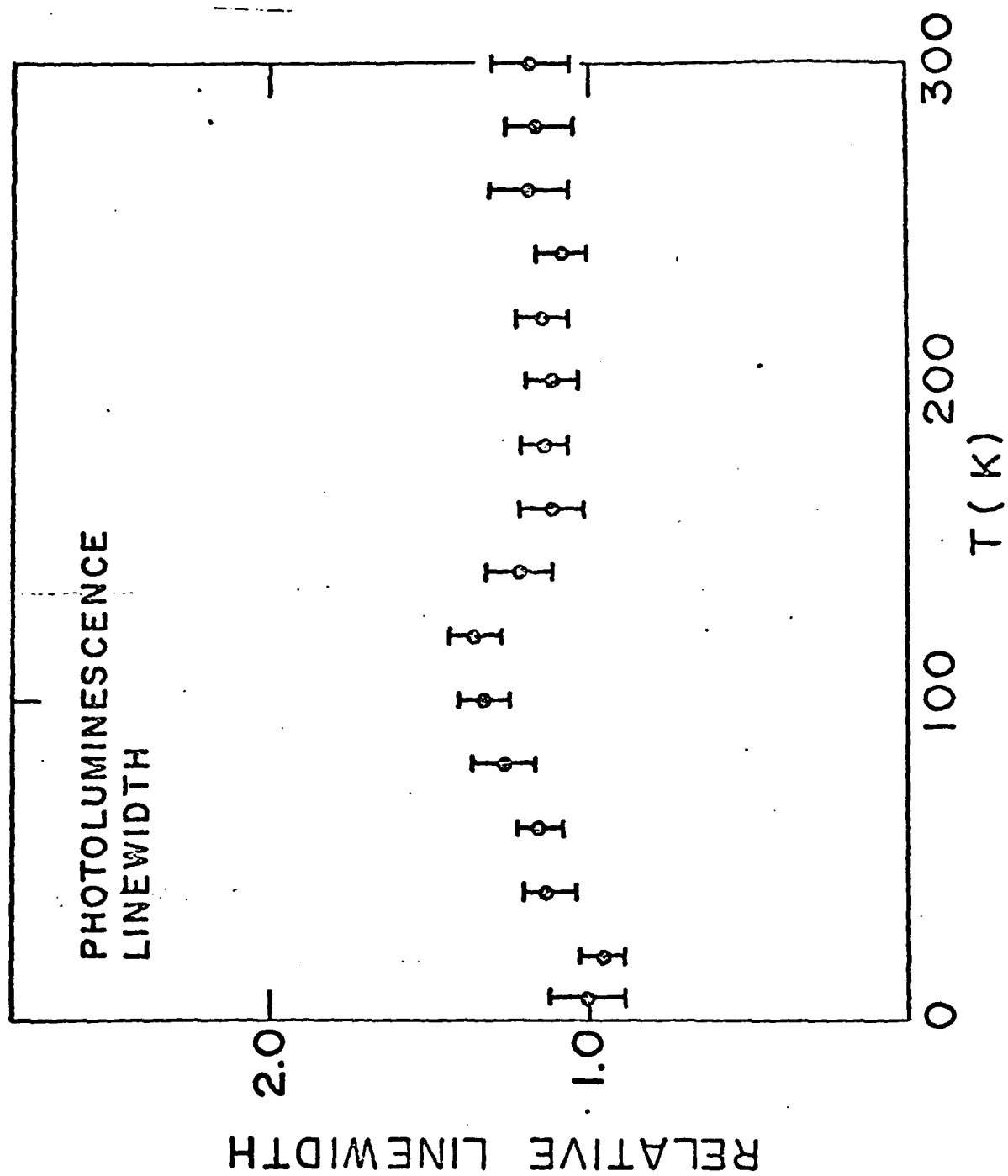
- a. cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub>; cis-transoid configuration (lower energy).
- b. cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub>; trans-cisoid configuration (higher energy).
- c. A cis-(CH)<sub>x</sub> chain containing a charged soliton-antisoliton pair. Since the regions A and B are not degenerate, the solitons are confined; the farther apart the greater the energy. The soliton deformations are shown as localized on a single site, whereas the deformation should be spread over many lattice sites.

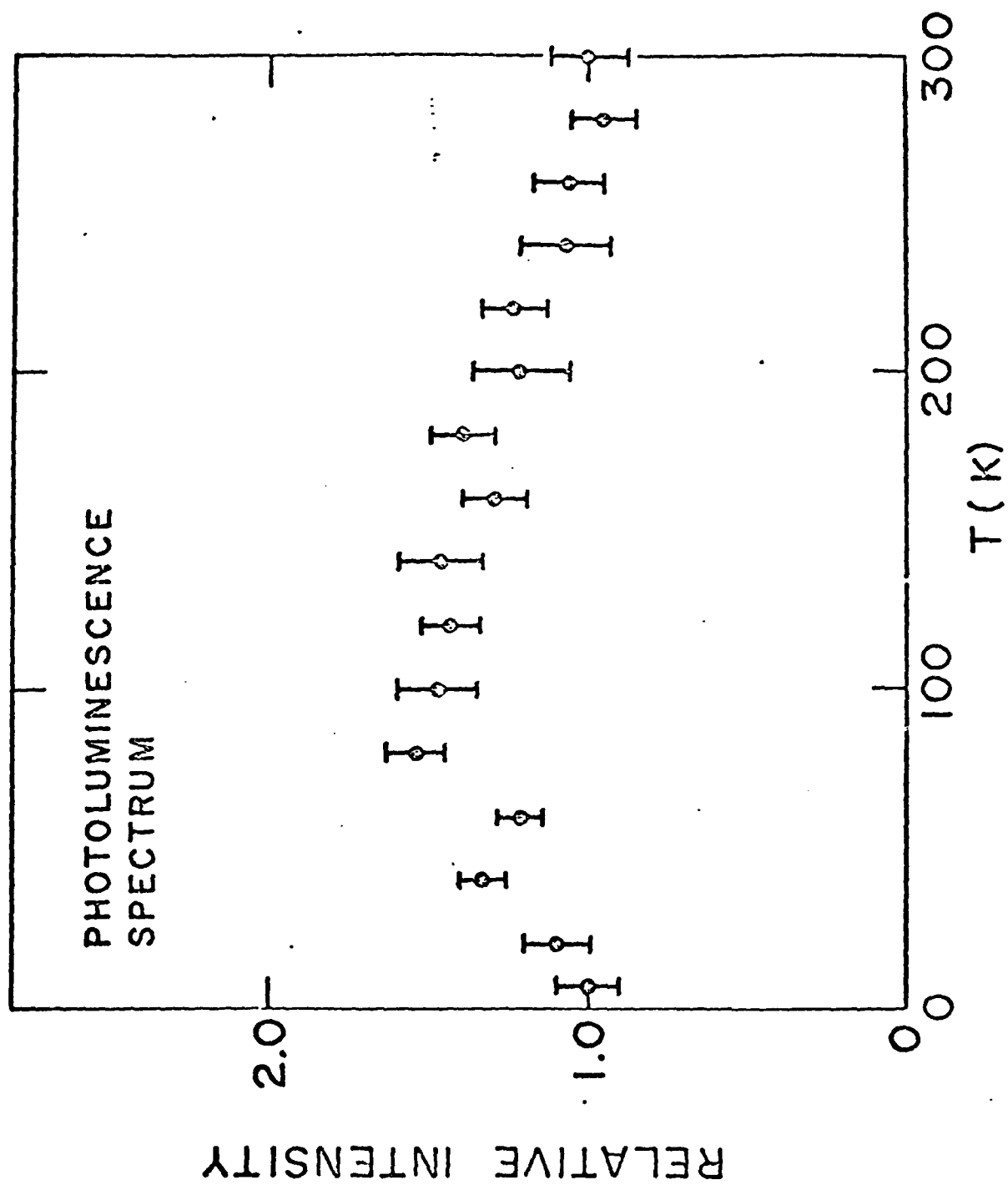




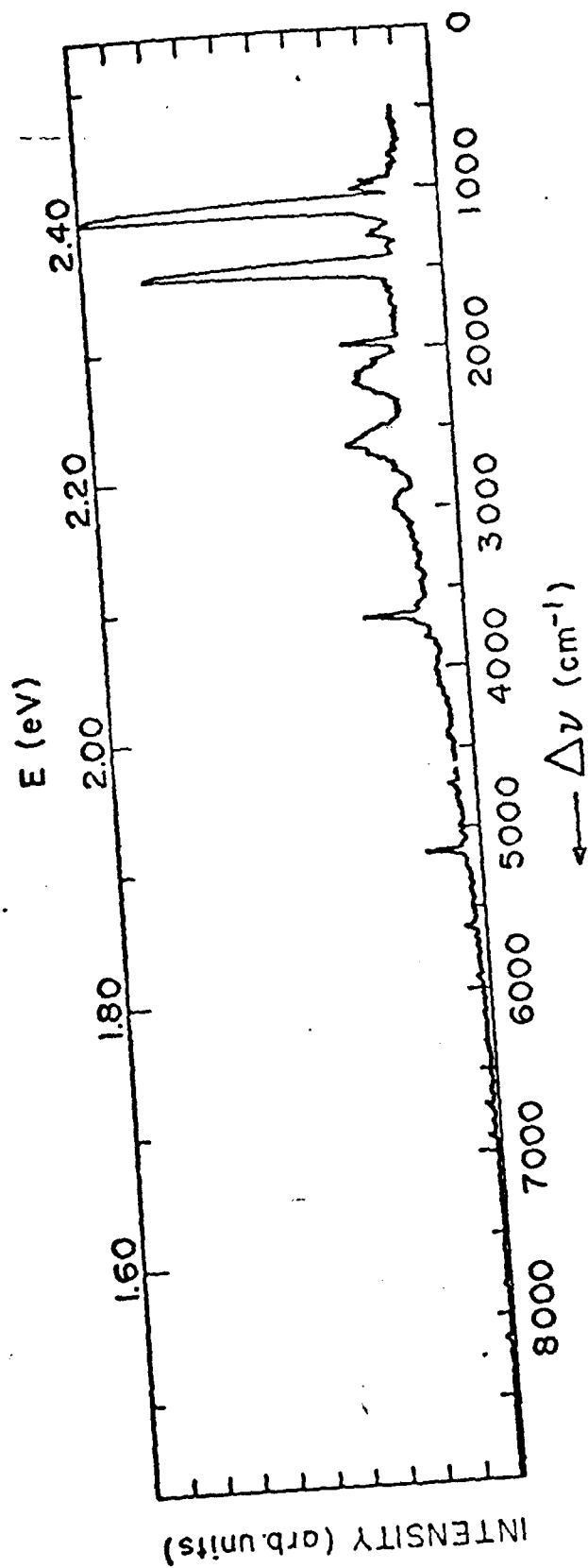


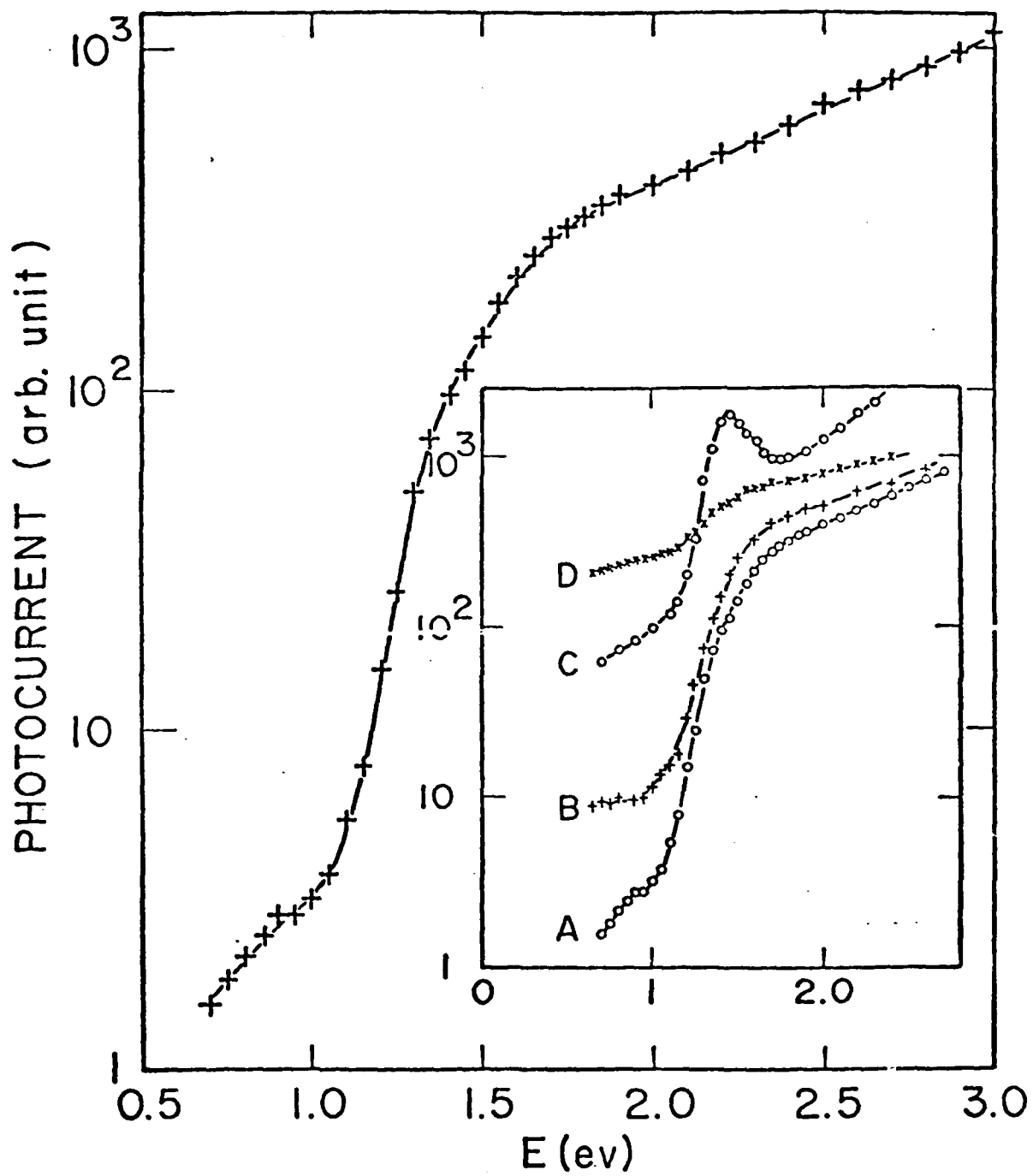


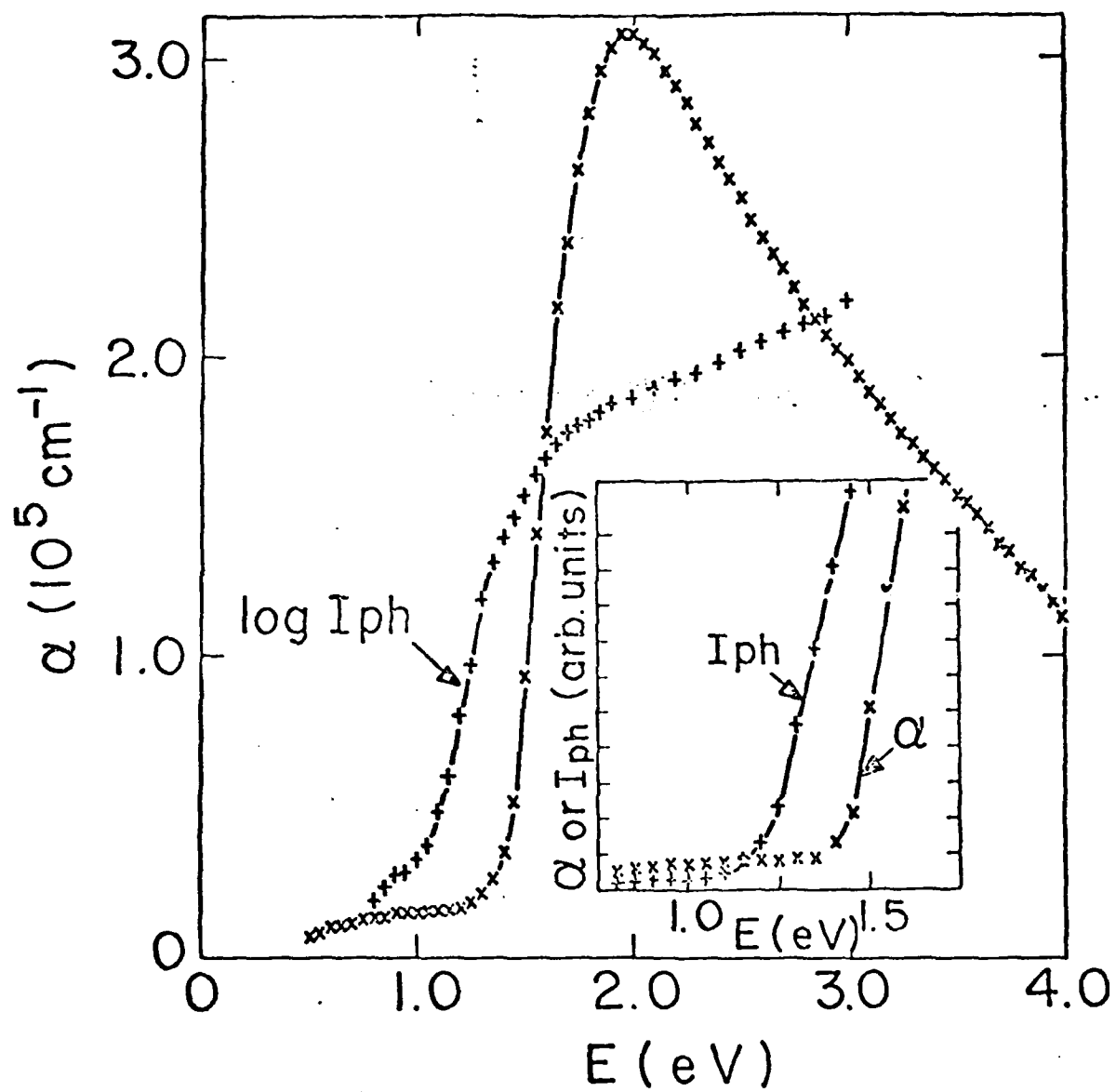


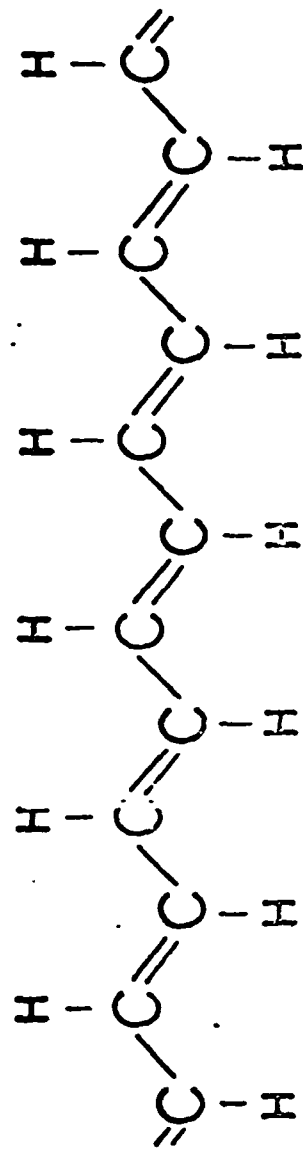
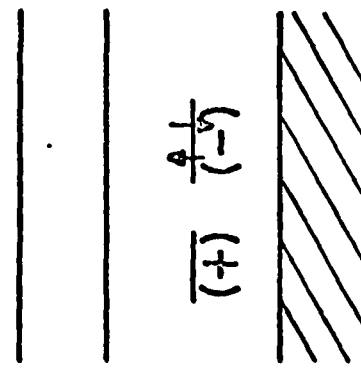
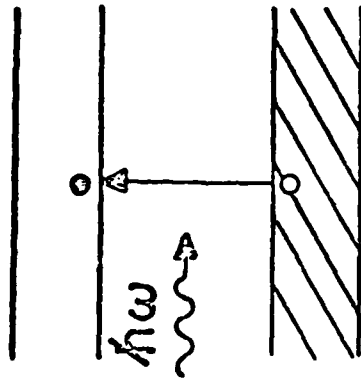




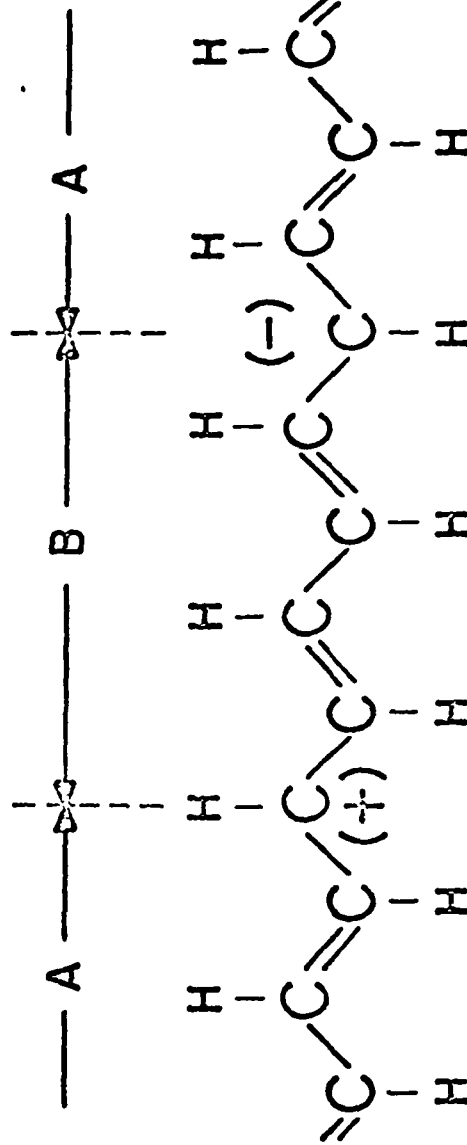




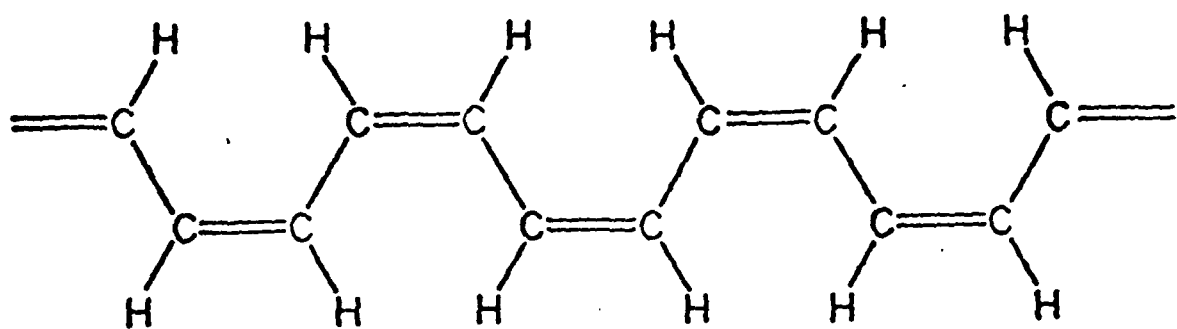




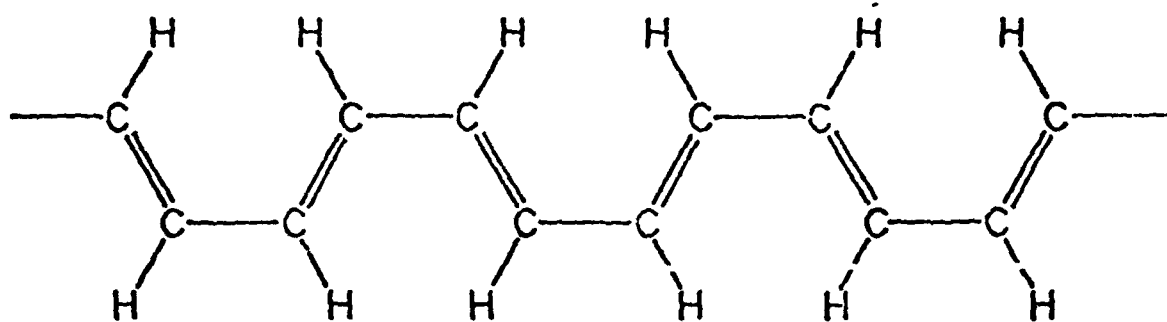
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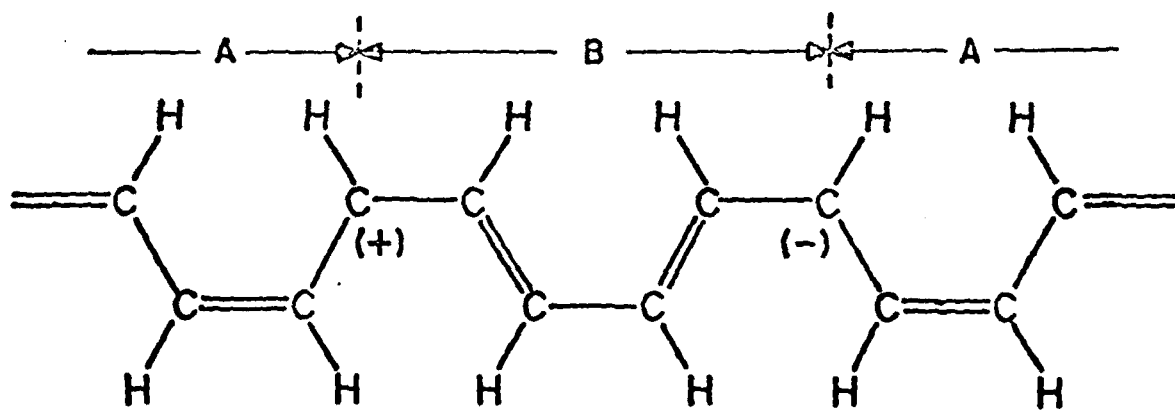
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